

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13

EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-07 ORM-02 TRSE-00 SAM-01 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2222

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5044

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MASS, BG

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION

REF: STATE 240964

1. OUR COMMENTS FOLLOWED KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS IN REFTEL.

2. PARAGRAPH 4, BEGINNING AT SECOND SENTENCE: "POLITICAL PARTIES, BANNED FOLLOWING NOVEMBER, 1975, COUP, ARE NOW PERMITTED LIMITED ACTIVITY. THIS IS SCHEDULED TO BE EXPANDED TO MORE FULL ACTIVITY INCLUDING PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING OCTOBER WHEN SCREENING OF PARTIES IS COMPLETED BY THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME. TO BE PERMITTED FULL ACTIVITY A PARTY MUST MEET MARTIAL LAW REGIME REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ORGANIZATION, FINANCING AND MANIFESTOES. BASED ON SEVERAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR ACTIVITY, THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME IS PERMITTING A WIDE SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL VIEWS TO BE AIRD. RESTORATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS A PRELUDE TO ELECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, 1977. IF HELD, THE ELECTIONS WOULD LEAD TO A RESTORATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. THUS THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALLY DESCRIBES ITSELF AS A TEMPORARY REGIME WHOSE ROLE IS TO

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RESTORE STABILITY, LAW AND ORDER AND EQUAL JUSTICE AS A

PRELIMINARY TO ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. IT IS HEADED BY A FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR AND THE THREE HEADS OF THE ARMED FORCES AS DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS."

3. PARAGRAPH 5. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF BANGLADESH'S ADHERENCE TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SOURCE. LAST SENTENCE MAY REFER TO A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE.

4. PARAGRAPH 6, LAST SENTENCE MIGHT READ: "THE BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES HAS RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY BUT THIS IS NOW BEING LIFTED ON A SELECTIVE BASIS AS POLITICAL PARTIES ARE PERMITTED TO RESUME ACTIVITIES."
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA05044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1422
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976099/aaaaaham.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 240964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006